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but three of the meter companies, had undertaken to investigate this subject and prepare as speedily as possible specifications which would meet the views of the manufacturers, and also would be drawn with a view to safeguarding the interests of the purchasers of meters. After a great amount of work had been done and many meetings and discussions had been held, Mr. Tilden was able to present in October, 1919, tentative specifications for disc and current meters.

These specifications furnish, in the writer's opinion, a very promising outlook for an ultimate agreement between the manufacturers and the New England Water Works Association committee on the more important and controlling items in the design, manufacture and performance of meters. The manufacturers are most anxious that joint action on this important subject should be taken by both the New England and the American Water Works Associations. The writer has requested President Davis to appoint a committee to represent this Association, and believes such a committee will shortly be named.

The desirability of there being one standard specification rather than two for water works equipment is universally acknowledged. It is now probable that by the time we meet in Montreal early next summer the members of the Association will have an opportunity to discuss the proposed specifications and aid in the formulation of the clauses that will express the views of the majority of the members.

W. W. BRUSH.

THE STATUS OF OZONE IN THE TREATMENT OF WATER

On another page of this issue of the JOURNAL the use of ozone as a disinfectant in the purification of water is explained by Joseph W. Ellms in his characteristic clear manner. The paper deals carefully, very carefully, with the possibilities of ozone in water supply service. It points out the technical difficulties attending its successful use as a reliable germicidal agent, but it mentions only casually its cost in practical water treatment. It is these two factors which, up to the present time, have prevented any general use of ozone for this purpose.

It is possible that ozone will become a more useful agent in our work than it is today. Everybody whose aim is to insure the delivery of wholesome water to our cities at minimum cost will welcome every advance in the technique of producing and using ozone

which will reduce the delay in the arrival of the day when it can be considered a really useful, practical agent. But that day will not come, apparently, until two distinct, unrelated problems in science are solved. The first of these is the continuous production of the gas at lower cost than it is made today. The second problem is presented by the needed development of an absolutely certain, complete and continuous mixing of the ozone and water. Every atom of water must be brought into direct contact with the ozonized air in the large-scale operations of practical water supply. The successful small-scale operations of the laboratory are not always certain proof of the practical, large-scale value of a delicate chemical process.

The writer has followed the development of ozonization for twenty years or so and has found it most interesting, even alluring, but up to date it is experimental, not practical. He cannot share fully the optimism of Mr. Ellms about this method of treatment. After years of experiment conducted with all the technical and financial resources of great American and European electrical manufacturing companies and after many private studies by consulting specialists, no substantial progress has been made for a good many years in the practical treatment of large quantities of water. A new discovery may change this condition at any time, but there is no hint of such a discovery heard today in scientific and technical circles. The very fact that the manufacturers of the apparatus which would be used in this method of disinfection have apparently abandoned it for the time being as a desirable field for exploitation is significant.

GEORGE A. JOHNSON.

QUESTIONS BEFORE THE HOUSE

At the Buffalo convention, a number of topics were brought up for discussion, but for one reason or another the amount of information elicited was meager. Many members of the Association can contribute notes on these subjects which will prove of material help to those who have asked for such statements. The Publication Committee therefore requests the members to send to the editor of the JOURNAL an outline of their experience in the following matters, in order that fairly complete data on them may be compiled and published at an early date:

1. How may leaks due to cracks in the bottom of a concrete reservoir be stopped?